

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Amos Church S8191 ¹

f28NC

Transcribed by Mary Gerber rev'd 11/16/10 & 11/6/14 by Will Graves 1/6/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, Wilkes County

On the 19th day of October, in the year of our lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Three personally appeared before me James Wellborn, a Justice Of The Peace, and for the County of Wilkes and State aforesaid, Amos Church, resident in said County who being duly sworn according to law for the purpose of obtaining a pension, under an act of Congress passed June the 7th. 1832. Depoeth and saith that he has no written evidence of his age, but believes that he was born in the State Of Virginia in the year 1758, being so informed by his parents, removed to Rowan County, North Carolina where they lived about thirteen years as this affiant was informed, and believes. They then moved to Wilkes County where this affiant has lived ever since. This affiant states that in the spring of the year 1778, he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, Capt. John Cleveland, and Lieu. Gambill, as a Private, was marched from Wilkes across the Blue Ridge to the head of New River where a division of the Company took place and Lieu. Gambill took command of the company to which this affiant was attached as Capt. We marched down New River in pursuit of the Tories through Cox's settlement, where we captured a Tory and executed him. We then pursued them to the Virginia line and captured several of them, but did not have any engagements, we then returned home to Wilkes County where we discharged having served about five weeks, which discharge this affiant has long since lost. This affiant further states that in the summer of 1778 he was drafted and called into service for three months under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland, and Cap. Richard Allen. was marched up the Yadkin River out at its head into Burke County to what was called Crider's Fort in pursuit of a Company of Tories under the command of a Tory Col. by the name of Roberts. On arriving at the Fort we were informed that the Tories had retreated towards the Catawba River. We pursued them on. When we reached the river we continued our march on down the river, and we had not gone many miles before we were fired upon by the Tories from the cliffs. The Captain of our light horse, Cap. Larkin Cleveland was shot through the thigh. When the Tories retreated we remained along said river for several days, scouting, and guarding the country. Then we were marched back to Wilkes County and discharged for three months by our Captain. Which discharge this affiant has lost: He further states that in the month of October 1779 he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Captain

¹ BLWt36647-160-55

Reuben Stringer, and Lieut. Brown. We marched from Wilkes County across the Blue Ridge to Cove Creek, crossing the Stone Mountain to the Watauga River in pursuit of the above named Col. Roberts, a Tory, and his Company;.. The Tories retreated before us, some miles as we understood. When our Company arrived at the Watauga River we remained there some days, engaged in scouting expeditions, and guarding the country. Then we marched back to Wilkes having served one month, which discharge of our Captain this affiant has lost:...He further states that in the month of November 1779 he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Capt. Robert Cleveland, marched across the Blue Ridge to the South Fork of the New River at a place called The Old Fields, in pursuit of a Company of Tories: who had captured Col. Benjamin Cleveland. We pursued them across the mountains near the North Fork of said river, where we overtook them, and fired upon them, wounded one Tory, and made three prisoners, and rescued Col. Cleveland. We then returned to the Old Fields and remained a few days and returned home in ten days from the day we started... He further states that in the month of July, or August, he served a short tour after the Indians commanded by Capt. Benjamin Greer, and Lieut. William Stringer. That in the month of August , or September he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland, and Capt. George Morris, marched to the Calloway Settlement on New River in pursuit of Tories, and then returned to Wilkes. This was in 1780. He received no discharge: This affiant further states that in the fall of the year 1780 he volunteered for three month's and joined headquarters at Salisbury, North Carolina , under the command of Col. Lark, and Capt. William Glenn , of Virginia. We were stationed at Salisbury, Rowan County for some time when an express came on for the troop to march to Mecklenburg County where there were a number of British prisoners to guard. We were stationed there for some time when the prisoner's were taking sick, and several died... We then marched back to Salisbury, guarding the prisoner's... We were discharged by our Capt. for three months service, which discharge this affiant has lost. ..He further states that he did not return home to Wilkes before he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Capt. William Fletcher. There being no commanding Col.(as well as I recollect) to guard the Tory prisoners in the stockade(or kind of fort)in Salisbury, where he remained stationed for three months and received a discharge from Capt. Fletcher, which he has long since lost. This affiant further states that in the spring or summer of 1781 he volunteered, and was called into service for three month's under the command of Capt. Joel Lewis, and marched from Wilkes County through Rowan, crossing Yadkin at the trading ford below Salisbury, passing through Randolph County to some creek,(as this affiant understood) to join Gen. Greens Army... Our Company was stationed at Cane's Creek for some time when news came for them to be marched back to Wilkes, where we were discharged for three month's, having served altogether Two years, and three month's under orders which discharge this affiant has lost...This affiant further states that he has no documentary evidence of his service, except his brother John Church who served several tours with him... He further states that his name is not on any pension rolls of any State, and that he relinquishes all pension claims whatsoever, save that stated in his declaration.

S/ Amos Church, X his mark.

Sworn to and subscribed before me a Justice of the peace for Wilkes County and State aforesaid, this 19th.day of October, A.D. 1883.

S/ J. Wellborn, J.P.

[Hugh Brown & Thomas Fletcher, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, County of Wilkes

This day came before me, James Wellborn, as justice of the peace, in, and for, the County of Wilkes, and state aforesaid, John Church,² and made oath that his age is about seventy three years, that he served in the Revolutionary War with his brother Amos Church, was with him in the expeditions to Cox's settlement, The Catawba River, and Crider's Fort, To Cove Creek, and The Watauga River, against the Indians, and to the Calloway settlement. That they parted during the services, but he believes said Amos Church was frequently, if not constantly in service to the close of the war.

Sworn to and subscribed this 19th. day of October, A.D. 1833.

S/ John Church, X his mark

Added by Will Graves

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 25]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: Superior Court of Law March Term 1834

Be it known that at a Superior Court of Law and Equity, begun and held for the County of Wilkes in State aforesaid on the second Monday of March in the year of our Lord 1834, Amos Church (Senior) resident of said County, being sworn in due form of law, for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, deposes and saith that he has no written evidence of his age, but believes that he was born in the State of Virginia in the year 1758, being so informed by his parents. That at two years old his parents removed to Rowan County, North Carolina where they lived about 13 years as this affiant was informed and believes, they then moved to Wilkes County, where this affiant has lived ever since. This affiant states that in the spring of the year 1778 he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland – Captain John Cleveland, & Lieutenant Gambill as a private – was marched from Wilkes across the Blue Ridge –, To the head of the New River, where a division of the company took place; and Lieutenant Gambill took the command of the company, to which this affiant was attached as Captain we marched down New River in pursuit of the Tories, through Cox's Settlement; where we captured a Tory by the name of Ingram and executed him; we then pursued them to the Virginia line, and captured several of them, but did not having any engagement, we then returned to Wilkes County, where we were discharged having served about five weeks, which discharge this affiant has long since lost. – This affiant further states, that in the summer of 1778, he was drafted and called into service for three months, under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and Captain Richard Allen, was marched up the Yadkin River, out at its head into Burke County to what was called Crider's

² [John Church W9343](#)

Fort in pursuit of a company of Tories, under the command of a Tory Colonel by the name of Roberts, on arriving at the Fort we were informed that the Tories had retreated towards the Catawba River, we pursued them on when we reached the River we continued our march down the River, and we had not gone many miles before we were fired upon by the Tories from the Cliffs. The Captain of our light horse, Captain Larkin Cleveland was shot through the thigh, when the Tories retreated; we remained along said River for several days scouting and guarding the country, when we were marched back to Wilkes County and discharged by our Captain having been called into service for three months which discharge this affiant has long since lost. He further states that in the month of October 1779, he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Captain Reuben Stringer, and Lieutenant William Brown, we marched from Wilkes County across the Blue Ridge to Cove Creek crossed in pursuit of the above named Colonel Roberts, a Tory & his company, the Tories retreated to the Stone mountain to the Watauga River. They remained before us some miles as we understood, when our company arrived at the Watauga River there some days, engaged in scouting expeditions, & guarding the country, when we were marched back to Wilkes, having served one month, receiving a discharge from the Captain, which this affiant has lost. He further states that in the month of November 1779 he volunteered and was called into service for three months, under the command of Captain Robert Cleveland, marched across the Blue Ridge to the South fork of the New River at a place called the old fields, in pursuit of a company of Tories, who had captured Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, we pursued them across the mountains, near the North fork of said River, where we overtook them, and fired upon them, wounded one Tory and made three prisoners and rescued Colonel Cleveland, we then returned to the old fields and remained a few days, and returned home in ten days from the time we started. He further states that in the months of July or August he served a short Tour after the Indians, commanded by Captain Benjamin Greer and Lieutenant William Stringer, that in the month of August or September, he volunteered and was called into service for three months, under the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, and Captain George Morris marched to the Calloway Settlements on New River in pursuit of Tories, and returned to Wilkes, this was in 1780. He received no discharge. This affiant further states that in the fall of the year 1780, he volunteered for three months and joined headquarters at Salisbury North Carolina under the command of Colonel Locke, in Captain William Glenn of Virginia, we were stationed in Salisbury Rowan County, for some time when an express came on for the troops to March to Mecklenburg County where there were a number of British prisoners to guard, we were stationed there for some time, when the prisoners were taken sick, & several died; we then marched back to Salisbury guarding the prisoners, where we were discharged by our Captain for three months service, which discharge this affiant has lost: he further states that he did not return home to Wilkes, before he volunteered and was called into service for three months, under the command of Captain William Fletcher. There being no commanding Colonel as well as I recollect; to guard the Tory prisoners in this stockade or kind of Fort in Salisbury, where we remained stationed for three months, and received a discharge from Captain Fletcher, which he has long since lost. This affiant further states that in the spring or summer of 1781, he volunteered and was called into service for three months under the command of Captain Joel Lewis, and marched from Wilkes County through Rowan, crossing the Yadkin [River] at the trading Ford below Salisbury, crossing through Randolph County to Cane Creek, as this affiant understood to join General Greene's Army, our company was stationed at Cane Creek for some time, when

news came for them to be marched back to Wilkes, where we were discharged which discharge this affiant has lost. Having served, altogether two years and three months as a private soldier, under orders: This affiant further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services, and that he knows of no living witness to his services except his brother John Church, who served several tours with him. He further states that his name is not upon the pension Roll of any [state] and that he relinquishes all pension claims whatsoever save that stated in the foregoing declaration.

Sworn to in open Court March 14th, A.D. 1834.

S/ Amos Church, X his mark

[Hugh Brown and Thomas Fletcher, a clergyman, once again gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 28]

State of North Carolina Wilkes County: SS: John Church swears that he is aged about seventy-three years; that he served in the revolutionary war with his brother Amos Church, was with him in the expeditions to Cox's Settlement, the Catawba River & Crider's Fort, to Cove Creek in the Watauga River, against the Indians, and to the Calloway settlements, that they parted during the service, but he believes said Amos Church was frequently if not constantly in service to the close of the war.

Sworn to in open court March 14th A.D. 1834

S/ John Church, the X his mark

[p 9]

State of North Carolina County of Ashe: Know all men by these present that I Rebecca Wood the late wife & widow of Amos Church, Deceased, a Revolutionary Pensioner of the US – do hereby relinquish all right and claimed that I may in any way have to bounty land from the United States under any existing laws of Congress in favor of the minor children of the said Amos Church, Deceased – two with Amey S. Church (now the wife of J. W. Smithy) and to Robert B Church – and request that the Commissioner of pensions of the United States issued to them the Bounty land – do on account of the Services of their father, the said Amos Church, Deceased, in the War of the Revolution.

Given under my hand and seal this fifth day of July 1856

S/ Rebecca Wood, X her mark

[p 10]

State of North Carolina County of Wilkes: On this 15th day of March A.D. 1855 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace, within and for the County and State aforesaid Thomas H. Foster – The next friend of Amey S Church, and Robert B Church, a resident of the County and State aforesaid who after being duly sworn according to law declares that Amey S Church and Robert B Church are children and lawful heirs of Amos Church, Deceased, late of said County and State – who was a Soldier of the War of the Revolution – and a pensioner of the United States – on account of his Revolutionary Services. That the said Amos Church died at his residence in Wilkes County State of North Carolina on the 19th day of May A.D. 1842. That he left his wife, Rebecca – the mother of the above named children a widow, That she has since married and is now living and is now wife of John Wood of the County and State aforesaid. That the said Amey S Church, is seventeen years

old last September – and Robert B Church is thirteen years old last February – The said children of the said Amos Church, Deceased as aforesaid – That for the services of the said Amos Church in the War of the Revolution he refers to the papers and Books of the Pension office in the case of the said Amos Church, for a pension from the United States – And that the said Amey S Church and Robert B Church, are the only minor children of the said Amos Church, Deceased. He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which the said Amey S Church, and Robert B Church may be entitled under the act passed March three, A.D. 1855.

S/ Thomas H. Foster

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]